

In the Claims:

1. (Original) A method for preventing an unauthorized display source from overwriting an image displayed by an authorized display source on a video display system, comprising

under control of code that is independent of a native operating system, generating a display region mask that defines a display area of the video display system;

associating the generated display region mask with the authorized display source; and

upon receiving an indication from the authorized display source to write the image within the area defined by the associated display region mask, transparently writing the image onto the display area, such that output from an unauthorized source is not displayed within the area defined by the associated display region mask in a manner that is independent of any display ordering imposed by the native operating system.

2. (New) A method for preventing a first application from overwriting data displayed by a second application on a video display system, comprising:

generating a display region mask that defines a display area of the video display system;

associating the generated display region mask with the second application;

receiving data for the first application from a graphics device interface associated with a native operating system;

modifying a portion of the received data intended for the display area defined by the display region mask to prevent the data from the first application from being displayed in the display area defined by the display region mask; and

transferring the data, including the modified portion, to a display driver associated with the video display system.

3. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the modification of data is performed by a display filter positioned intermediate the graphics device interface and the video display driver to filter data from the first application intended for the display area defined by the display region mask.

4. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising receiving data for the second application from the graphics device interface and replacing the modified portion of the received data for the first application with the received data for the second application.

5. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising resizing the display area to create a first display area under control of the native operating system and a second display area outside control of the native operating system.

6. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the display region mask defines the second display area outside control of the native operating system as the display area of the video display system.

7. (New) The method of claim 2 wherein the first application is an executable application of the native operating system.

8. (New) A system for preventing a first application from overwriting data displayed by a second application on a video display system, comprising:

a programming interface to provide a routine to create a display region mask that defines a masked display area of the video display system and to associate the generated display region mask with the second application; and

a display filter to:

intercept function calls from a graphics device interface associated with a native operating system; and

when the display filter detects that an intercepted function call from the first application is specifying transmission of data to the masked display area, clip a portion of the received data intended for the masked display area to prevent the data from the first application from being displayed in the masked display area.

9. (New) The system of claim 8 wherein the display filter resides intermediate the graphics device interface and the video display driver to filter data from the first application intended for the masked display area.

10. (New) The system of claim 8, further comprising a programming interface to resize the display area to create a first display area under control of the native operating system and a second display area outside control of the native operating system.

11. (New) The system of claim 10 wherein the masked display region mask is positioned within the second display area.

12. (New) A computer readable media containing instructions for controlling a computer processor to prevent a first application from overwriting data displayed by a second application on a video display system, by:

generating a display region mask that defines a display area of the video display system;

associating the generated display region mask with the second application;

receiving data for the first application from a graphics device interface associated with a native operating system; and

clipping a portion of the received data intended for the display area defined by the display region mask to prevent the data from the first application from being displayed in the display area defined by the display region mask.

13. (New) The computer readable media of claim 12, further comprising instructions to cause the computer processor to transfer the data, including the clipped portion, to a display driver associated with the video display system.

14. (New) The computer readable media of claim 12 wherein the modification of data is performed by a display filter positioned intermediate the graphics device interface and the video display driver to filter data from the first application intended for the display area defined by the display region mask.

15. (New) The computer readable media of claim 12, further comprising instruction to cause the computer processor to resize the display area to create a first display area under control of the native operating system and a second display area outside control of the native operating system.

16. (New) The computer readable media of claim 15 wherein the display region mask defines the second display area outside control of the native operating system as the display area of the video display system.

17. (New) The computer readable media of claim 12 wherein the first application is an executable application of the native operating system.